

The Pipeline

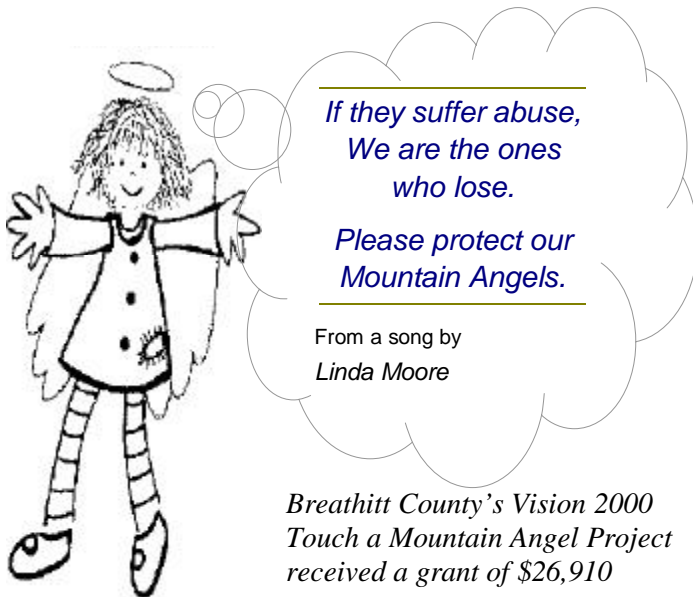
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Vision 2000 Funding to Help Fight Child Abuse and Neglect

By Cary Willis, CFC Communications

The Cabinet for Families and Children has awarded \$552,000 to community partnerships aimed at protecting children from abuse and neglect.



*If they suffer abuse,
We are the ones
who lose.*

*Please protect our
Mountain Angels.*

From a song by
Linda Moore

*Breathitt County's Vision 2000
Touch a Mountain Angel Project
received a grant of \$26,910*

The grants, using federal Community Based Family Resource and Support funds, administered by Eastern Kentucky University, went to projects established to develop more community-minded approaches to human services.

Cabinet leadership created "Vision 2000" two years ago to improve both access to, and results of, the services provided by the agency. The concept – which became the model for the Cabinet's restructuring – gives local CFC staff and communities more local authority to assess community needs and make decisions to meet those needs. Vision 2000 is designed to give people the tools they need to be safe and self-sufficient.

For a complete list of recipients, see the press release page of CFC's Web site, http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/media_releases/media.htm.

State Receives \$7 Million to Help Low-Income Cope with Heat

By Margaret Davis Harney, CFC Communications

Kentucky has received \$7,749,823 in emergency federal funds to help low-income households cope with the heat. Applications for benefits will be taken at local Community Action Agency offices beginning Aug. 9, through a contract between the states Cabinet for Families and Children and the Kentucky Association for Community Action (KACA). Benefits will be available to eligible residents of all 120 Kentucky counties.

Community Action Agencies will use the funds to help pay utility bills and provide air conditioners. No cash assistance will be provided to any household. For those who meet the income guidelines, a payment will be made to the household's electric utility provider, or to the landlord where cooling costs are included in the rent.

Household income cannot exceed 110 percent of the federal poverty level. The poverty level varies depending on the size of the household. For example, 110 percent of poverty for a family of four is \$1,508 gross monthly income; 55 percent of poverty for a family of four is \$754 gross monthly income. Eligibility and benefit criteria are:

- 1) For households at or below 55 percent of poverty – and in non-subsidized housing – the electric utility benefit will be \$175; \$50 if in subsidized housing.
- 2) For households at 56 percent to 110 percent of poverty – and in non-subsidized housing – the electric utility benefit will be \$125; \$75 if in subsidized housing.
- 3) In addition to an electric utility benefit, air conditioners will be provided to households that meet the income guidelines and also include a member age 65 or older, children under age six, or a member with a health condition/disability that requires cooling to prevent the condition from becoming life threatening.

For more information, see the press release page of CFC's Web site, http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/media_releases/media.htm.

FRYSC Sponsors “Victory Over Violence” Conference

By Mary McKenzie, CFC Office of Family Resource and Youth Services Centers

Training on preventing violence in schools and communities was provided to over 250 staff of the state’s Family Resource and Youth Service Centers, and other education professionals, at July’s “Victory Over Violence” conference. The conference, held in Lexington, was sponsored by the Cabinet for Families and Children’s Office of Family Resource and Youth Service Centers, FRYSC.

CFC Secretary Viola Miller opened the conference. Other speakers included Dr. Robert “Sandy” Goodlett, FRYSC executive director; Dr. Randy Kimbrough, Department of Education deputy commissioner, and Kerri Schelling, training coordinator for the School and Communities Training Center for School Safety.

Workshops topics included FRYSC and Safe Schools Alternative Programs, Conflict Resolution/Peer Mediation, Developmental Assets, Effects of Media Violence on Behavior, and The Impact of Early Brain Research as a Preventative Tool.

Conference participants were also given the opportunity to network and share information about effective existing programs in their centers.

News on Family Violence Prevention

- The number of children who die at the hands of their parents or another caregiver may be under-reported by 60 percent, according to research in the Aug. 4 *Journal of the American Medical Association*.
- The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP) urges parents to avoid television for children under age two in a press release dated Aug. 2. AAA also suggests parents create an “electronic media-free” environment in children’s rooms and avoid using an electronic babysitter. The organization recommends pediatricians ask questions about media during patient’s routine visits, as it believes education can reduce harmful media effects. For the full release, see the AAA Web site at <http://www.aap.org/advocacy/releases/augdis.htm>.
- Doctors are failing to find victims of domestic violence by not asking all their patients about abuse during routine office visits, according to a new study reported in the latest issue of the *Journal of the American Medical Association*. Since 1993, the AMA has encouraged physicians to ask all patients about their exposure to domestic violence.
- Read the complete U.S. Senate Report on Children, Violence and the Media at <http://www.senate.gov/~judiciary/mediavio.htm>.

Go Back to School with KCHIP, CHS Urges Families

As, families prepare to send their children back to school with new clothes, folders and lunch boxes, the Cabinet for Health Services wants them to know about one more thing that’s important to learning - a new program exclusively for children, Kentucky Children’s Health Insurance Program, or KCHIP.

KCHIP offers free health insurance coverage to children birth through age 18 who live in families with incomes under 150 percent of the federal poverty line. For a family of four that would be \$25,050 a year.

“There is some science on the books that shows healthy kids going to school do better,” said Dr. Rice Leach, commissioner of the Kentucky Department for Public Health.

An estimated 100,000 uninsured Kentucky children are eligible for health coverage through KCHIP or Medicaid. CHS began an extensive outreach campaign in June and is seeking the assistance of schools to help spread the word with the start of classes this fall. The cabinet will also have information about KCHIP at its state fair booth Aug. 19-29 in Louisville.

Local health departments and Family Resource and Youth Services Centers are participating in back-to-school fairs this month as classes resume in most schools. They will be distributing applications and information about KCHIP.

CHS has also established a toll-free number for families to call with questions about KCHIP and the applications process, 1-877-KCHIP-18 (524-4718). For the hearing impaired, call 1-877-524-4719.

KCHIP pays for immunizations, hearing and vision services, along with most other medical needs.



Kentucky Children's Health Insurance Program

Pipeline, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Boler at Patricia.Boler@mail.state.ky.us



Central Office Notes and Activities

- The American Red Cross will hold a **blood drive Aug. 12**, 10 a.m. - 3 p.m., at the American Legion Post #7, 164

Versailles Rd., Frankfort.

- Nominations for **CFC Employees of the Month** are due by the 15th of each month. For more information, or to submit a nomination, contact Charlene Nation of the Employee Services Branch, CHR-5, phone 564-7770. She will also accept nominations sent by e-mail.
- The **Investment Education Expo**, sponsored by the Deferred Compensation Authority, will be held in Frankfort Aug. 17, 9 a.m. and 2 p.m., at the Capital Plaza Civic Center, 405 Mero St. For a complete schedule, see page 2 of the July 30 *Pipeline*.
- **The Fibromyalgia Support Group** will meet Aug. 19 at 7 p.m. at Highland Christian Church. Anyone who is interested is invited to attend. For more information, call Linda Burke of Health Services at 564-7213.
- The Annual U.S. 127 Yard Sale will be held Aug. 19-21. For more information, including designated parking, see the Transportation Cabinet Web site at www.kytc.state.ky.us.
- The **aerobics program** meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m. in the cafeteria. Call Beth Bates at 564-4150 for more information.

Aug. 2 Leadership Topics

The following topics were discussed at the Aug. 2 leadership meeting, and should be discussed by all managers with their staff.

Y2K: We can provide our clients with materials that have been prepared by the Red Cross, Disaster and Emergency Services and others.

Simplified Access projects: Kentucky Resource Directory, online at <http://resourcedirectory.state.ky.us> (For an explanation of the new search feature and how to use it, see the July 30 issue of Pipeline.) Pilots on Virtual Office Telecommuting have been completed.

Electronic Benefits Transfer (EBT): A successful Aug. 1 in 41 counties, more to be added Sept. 1, and the entire state will have EBT by Oct. 1.

Office space in the Human Resources Building: A vacant space does not mean unassigned space, so don't move in.

Helpful Web Sites

Something new will be added to these *Helpful Web Sites* each week. Remember to "bookmark" the ones you will want to refer to often. If you've found a helpful site you would like to share in this column, e-mail it to <mailto:margaret.harney@mail.state.ky.us>.

Health

<http://www.mayohealth.org> - health information sponsored by the Mayo Clinic

<http://www.intelihealth.com> - a health information site sponsored by Johns Hopkins University and Aetna U.S. Healthcare®

<http://chid.nih.gov/welcome/welcome.html> - a combined database of federal health agencies, maintained by the National Institutes of Health

Children

<http://www.getnetwise.org/> - information on keeping children safe on the Net, plus links to educational and entertaining sites for children, teens and families

General Information

<http://www.kdla.state.ky.us/arch/pubson.htm> - Library and Archives' collection of publications from state agencies and other groups

<http://athena.louisville.edu/cbpa/sdc/newslet/newslet.htm> - State Data Center newsletters online

News

<http://www.kentucky.com/> - a search engine for info in many of Kentucky's newspapers, magazines, and radio and TV stations

http://cfc-chs.chr.state.ky.us/media_releases/media.htm: media releases from communications staff of CFC and CHS

Government Policy

<http://stateline.org/> - online magazine dealing with government issues

<http://nga.org/CBP/Front.asp> - online publication from the National Governor's Association, covering health, social services, economic development and more

Forms and More

<http://www.kydirect.net/> - online forms, order state publications, merchandise from state park gift shops, and more

Education and Research

<http://www.cpe.state.ky.us/univ/univ.htm> - links to all state universities, community colleges and independent colleges in Kentucky

<http://www.kdla.state.ky.us/> - Kentucky Department for Library and Archives

Claudia Sowell Honored For Work at St. Luke Free Clinic

By Gil Lawson, CHS Communications

Claudia Sowell, director of the St. Luke Free Clinic in Hopkinsville, was awarded \$100,000 from the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation's Community Health Leadership Program.

The award was presented to Sowell in June in Washington, D.C. in recognition of health promotion programs she developed for smokers, diabetics and people with hypertension. She overcame a shortage of physician volunteers for the clinic by recruiting nurse practitioners, and now oversees 250 volunteers – including 43 physicians, 10 pharmacists, 20 nurses, a dietician and 180 administrative personnel.

The St. Luke Free Clinic serves the working poor who have no health insurance or can't qualify for public assistance programs. It served 2,900 clients last year. Sowell, a licensed practical nurse, has worked at the clinic for six years. She has multiple sclerosis and uses a wheelchair.

"I grew up with the philosophy of wanting to help people," she said.

In addition to her work with St. Luke, Sowell is credited with helping other communities open free clinics. She is founder and first president of the Free Clinic Association of Kentucky, which has members across the state.

The Community Health Leadership Program awards \$1 million annually to 10 people who overcome daunting odds to expand access to health care and social services to underserved and isolated populations. This year's recipients were selected from a field of 317 nominees. Each of the 10 receives \$95,000 to enhance his or her program and \$5,000 as a personal award.

For information about how to nominate someone, contact the Community Health Leadership Program at 617-426-9772.

Sick Leave Needed

John Lundblad of Disability Determinations is hospitalized in Tyler, Texas for open-heart surgery. He will be off work for approximately 6 - 8 weeks and needs donated sick leave. To donate any time, please contact your timekeeper or Rebecca Collins, Disability Determinations Western Region, Elizabethtown, (270) 766-5188.

Take It Easy in Hot Weather

By Eva Smith-Carroll, CHS Communications

We all need to take it easy and watch out for each other during hot weather. Children, the elderly and sick people are especially vulnerable to the heat and need special attention.

"But, under the right conditions, anyone, even an athlete in great condition, can suffer a heat stroke or heat exhaustion," said Department for Public Health Commissioner Rice C. Leach, M.D. "Everyone needs to be careful. Take it easy outside, particularly during the hottest part of the day, and listen to your body."

Watch for Symptoms of Heat Exhaustion

Symptoms of heat exhaustion are: moist, clammy skin; nausea; headache; dizziness or confusion. People with these symptoms should be moved to a place out of the sun to rest and given liquids with small amounts of salt. If a heat exhaustion victim loses consciousness, vomits repeatedly or can't drink liquids, medical assistance should be called.

In heat stroke, a serious ailment that can be fatal, the victim's skin usually is hot and dry to the touch and may appear flushed at first and then turn gray. The person may seem confused or even delirious before losing consciousness. Heat stroke victims need immediate emergency medical care. In the meantime, bystanders can help lower the person's body temperature by bathing the victim in cool liquids, or wrapping the person in wet sheets and fanning the victim.

Other Precautions

Leach recommends that people on regular medication consult with their physician to see if their prescriptions should be modified during hot weather. Some medications can increase the loss of body fluids, increasing the possibility of dehydration.

People who are elderly or have chronic heart or lung problems should stay inside an air-conditioned building. During hot spells, neighbors and family members should check on people who may be susceptible to heat-related problems.

Check on children

Children should take the same precautions as adults as far as outdoor clothing, frequent breaks and plenty of liquids. They should be checked regularly by adults when they are playing outside.

Parents and other caretakers should also make sure children don't have access to car keys and aren't allowed to play in and around cars. Last summer in the U.S., 11 children died when they were trapped in the trunks of unattended vehicles. If a caretaker has to go on a shopping trip, the children should either be left home with a responsible adult or they should be taken into the store.

"I cannot stress enough that children should *never* be left in an automobile, even for a short period of time with the windows down," Leach said.